

Technology Lessons 4 Teachers

Secondary Edition – 6-12

Issue 23, Vol. 2 – January 2013

**P. 3 Websites 2
Check Out**

AppSaga &
WebCHECK

**P. 3 SPED Learners
Blio**

P. 2 Let's Get App-y

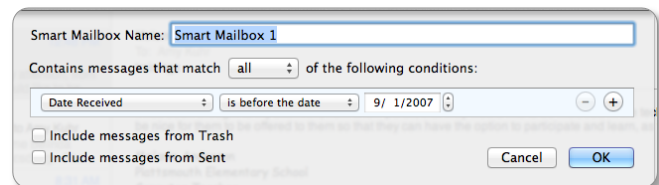
Google Drive &
Poems By Heart

P. 2 Do You Google?

Google Docs
Research Tool

Feature Application

Smart Mailboxes



In a few months we will be switching our email from our servers to Gmail. We are planning on moving all of your emails to the Gmail system, so when you logon you will see all of your email & folders. The Smart Mailboxes will not be available on Gmail, as Google has other features available.

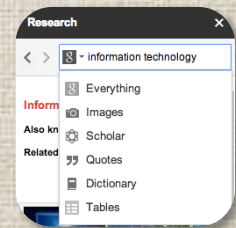
Until then Smart Mailboxes can be used to help lighten the load of emails that the Tech Department have to transfer over, by easily organizing older emails into a Smart Mailbox to quickly delete old emails.

1. Go to the **Mailbox** menu in your Mail program. Click on **New Smart Mailbox**.
2. Name your Smart Mailbox
3. Under **Any Recipient** change it to **Date Received**.
4. Alter **Contains** to **is before the date**, & choose your date. All emails that are before your date will be listed in the Smart Mailbox.

Now you can easily highlight all old emails to delete or find the ones you want to keep without having to remember which folder you placed it in.

Do You Google?

Google Docs Research Tool



The Research tool makes it easy to find & add information from the web into a document or presentation. To access this tool you can either **(1) go to the Tools menu > select Research**, or **(2) Right-click (Control-click) on a word & select Research**. The Research tool will appear on the right-hand side of your doc or slide. You can then type your query in the search bar, & select from web results, images, videos (presentations only), tables, quotations, maps, & more.

By clicking on a link it opens the site in a new window. If you hover over an entry instead, you can either **Preview** the site, **Insert Link**, or insert a footnote citation (in MLA, APA, or Chicago formatting) of the source into your document by selecting **Cite**.

Filter your results to only articles by selecting **Scholar** from the drop-down menu in the search bar. By hovering over the entries, you will be able to see either a web or PDF hyperlink to take you to the article. You can also either **Cite as Footnote** or **Insert** the title of the article.

Let's Get App-y



Google Drive

Google Drive is an app that we recently downloaded to the middle school iPods. It gives students access to their Google Docs accounts to allow them to make changes to their work. It is a little slow to open a new doc but it can be done. **(free)**



Poems By Heart from Penguin Classics

Memorizing poetry is a standard assignment in any English/Language Arts class, this can be an exercise in rote memorization, but in it's truest form is meant to be an expression of emotion and sharing of a meaningful experience (both the poet's and the reader's). This app is a clever way to bridge the gap, turning the memorization into a game. It offers two recordings of each poem as well as graphic imagery, which can aid in memorization. The fact that you have to purchase the various poem packs is a bit discouraging, but depending on individual or class needs it is manageable. **(free)**

AppSaga

<http://appsaga.com>

APP SAGA

AppSaga is a website formerly known as App Chronicles. This website is a great listing for apps that have been offered for free. Each day the site lists free apps for the iPads as well as iPods/iPhones. Most of the apps that we have downloaded have come from the AppSaga listings. The site also includes articles about current events in the technology world. The articles include a lot about the Apple products but also include Droid information as well.

WebCHECK

www.mywebcheck.net

WebCHECK 
The Web Site Evaluation Instrument © Small & Arnone, 2013

This came across my desk (aka my inbox) earlier this month & as a librarian I was excited but also a bit skeptical about a site, which purported to evaluate websites for students & teachers. The fact that it was created by The Center for Digital Literacy at Syracuse University & funded by a Institute of Museum and Library Services SPARKS! Ignition Grant gave some indication of its merits.

The evaluation tool allows you to select a checklist for professional, senior, middle or junior users - this determines the number & complexity of the evaluation questions. After you answer the questions it generates a report offering analysis of how stimulation, meaningful, organized, & ease of use – complete with charts and graphs.

This is an excellent tool for getting students to think critically about the content they are accessing. The site also offers lesson plans for incorporating WebCHECK into your instruction. I like that this tool provides prompts & stimulates thinking, but doesn't assume entirely responsibility for approving or denying the use of a specific website – the human evaluator is ultimately making the judgments.



For older students on the Autism Spectrum or other language disabilities, this app is an eBook reader that can read aloud with a text-to-speech voice using either a PDF or ePub. Words are highlighted as they are spoken. Uses a built-in dictionary. Internet search without leaving the book. **(free)**

SPED Learners

Blio